

Marion Rarick
State Representative

District 29B



Minnesota
House of
Representatives

2/2/2024

President Ettinger,

We write today to express our profound frustration in the lack of action to correspondence from Richard Painter and former Regent Michael Hsu regarding the rise of antisemitism on campus. As of Jan. 16, 2024, the University of Minnesota is officially under investigation for discrimination under Title VI for hosting one-sided faculty statements attacking the state of Israel on official university websites. Mr. Painter and Mr. Hsu have repeatedly asked that these statements be removed from official university pages, which are accessed by students for curricular and departmental information, and are a direct reflection of the university, but no action has been taken.

While we respect the faculty's individual freedom of speech, statements that seek to minimize, excuse or justify the horrific actions of Hamas terrorists on October 7th and attack the state of Israel's very existence, have no place on official taxpayer funded university websites and should be immediately removed.

Faculty members have the constitutional right to free speech in their individual capacities, but the university should not provide a platform for their biased, divisive, hate-filled speech on an official taxpayer university website. There are plenty of other non-university websites and other ways for faculty to express their views.

We will consider your response when the University of Minnesota comes to the legislature for future funding requests.

As of the date and time of the sending of this letter the post remains up at: <https://cla.umn.edu/ais/news-events/news/statement-palestine-genocide-and-repression>.

Sincerely,

Rep. Marion Rarick
Lead, Higher Ed. Committee

Rep. Lisa Demuth
Minority Leader

Rep. Paul Torkelson
Deputy Minority Leader

Rep. Greg Davids
Member, Higher Ed. Committee

Rep. Joe McDonald
Member, Higher Ed. Committee

Rep. Kristin Robbins
Member, Higher Ed. Committee



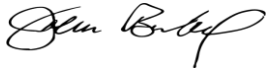
Rep. Peggy Scott
Member, Higher Ed. Committee



Rep. Pam Altendorf



Rep. Dave Baker
Assistant Minority Leader



Rep. John Burkel



Rep. Brian Daniels



Rep. Jeff Dotseth



Rep. Elliott Engen
Assistant Minority Leader



Rep. Mary Franson



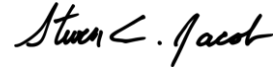
Rep. Bobbie Harder



Rep. Shane Hudella



Rep. Walter Hudson



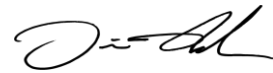
Rep. Steven Jacob



Rep. Debra Kiel



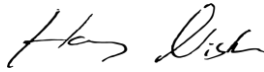
Rep. Krista Knudsen



Rep. Jim Nash
Minority Whip



Rep. Nathan Nelson



Rep. Harry Niska



Rep. Paul Novotny



Rep. Isaac Schultz
Assistant Minority Leader



Rep. Roger Skraba